

S E C R E T

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

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CIA/OCE

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Date: March 19, 1974
Item No.: WH #1

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DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

Fighting in the central highlands has eased, at least temporarily. Initially reporting indicates that both sides suffered heavy casualties in the Communist attacks against government positions near Kontum City and in the area of the Mang Giang Pass near the border of Pleiku and Binh Dinh provinces. The government battalion which took the brunt of the action probably will be forced to withdraw.

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Senior military officials in Military Region 2 believe the attacks were coordinated and are concerned that more attacks may soon take place. There has been heavy infiltration of men and material along the Communist logistic corridor in the western highlands in the past few months as well as a continuing effort to expand the logistics system to the east. The weekend

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attacks were directed against government units harassing those Communist forces extending a new east-west road in Kontum.

To the south, a government operation in western Darlac Province is winding down. Elements of the South Vietnamese 23rd Division now withdrawing from the operation could be sent north if the Communists do step up their attacks in Pleiku and Kontum provinces.